

Ag Department Says 1962 Milk Sales Pass \$4 Billion

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Agriculture Department has estimated cash receipts from farm marketings of milk and cream in 1962 totaled \$4,858,000,000. This is about 1 per cent less than the 1961 record.

The department's Crop Reporting Board said milk production in the United States last year was 125,927,000 pounds. This is about one-half of 1 per cent more than the previous record of 125,442,000 pounds in 1961.

The increase in total milk production last year resulted from an advance in annual output per cow. Production per cow in 1962 was a record annual rate of 7,370 pounds. This is an increase of 147 pounds from the 1961 rate.

The annual average number of milk cows in 1962 was 17,066,000 head, down nearly 2 per cent from 1961. Last year's number was the lowest of record in the series of estimates beginning in 1924.

Except for an upturn in 1963, the number of milk cows has declined since 1944. After dropping 4 or 5 per cent annually from 1956 to 1959, the rate of decline in number of milk cows has slowed down in the past three years. From 1959 to 1962 the decline has averaged 2 per cent a year.

The decline in total cash receipts for milk and cream in 1962 was caused by a decline of 9 cents in the average price received in terms of hundredweight of milk.

The United States exported \$4.3 million worth of dairy cattle in 1962, compared with about \$5.1 million in 1961. Exports of dairy breeding cattle totaled 11,251 head.

A 16 per cent decline from the record high of 13,356 head shipped in 1961. This decline was caused mainly by the embargo placed on exports to Cuba.

Mexico is the largest market for U.S. dairy cattle. In 1962 Mexico bought 62 per cent of the dairy cattle exported by the United States.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John P. Duncan Jr. is scheduled to leave today for Bangalore, India, to represent the United States at a meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee. Duncan was elected chairman of the 58-nation committee at its session in Washington last year.

The department has announced the fair and reasonable wage requirements for the 1963 crop of sugar beets in all producing regions.

The department said the determination increases minimum time rates 10 cents per hour—from 95 cents to \$1.05—and increases piecework on the average about 10 per cent. Piecework rates range by wage districts from \$10 to \$10.50 per acre for hoeing; \$12 to \$12.50 per acre for hoe trimming; \$17 to \$17.50 per acre for blocking and thinning; and \$6 to \$8 per acre for weeding.

Department officials said the wage rates established are within the producers' ability to pay under prospective price and production conditions for the 1963 crop. Payment of wages not less than those set by the department is a requirement that producers must meet to qualify for payments provided under the sugar act.

Rice Builds 'Renovator' For Ranch

ALTURA — Modoc County rancher, Jack Rice, has developed a meadow conditioner to alleviate the problems of "sod bound" meadows on his ranch. Rice and Wilbur Huntington rebuilt a grain packer drum in the ranch shop this winter that will literally turn up portions of the meadow and allow the grasses to aerate.

Rice welded 18-inch staggered steel spikes around the drum spaced two feet apart. Before the giant drum was put into use on the meadows it was filled with water bringing the weight to 4,500 pounds. The pasture conditioner is pulled with a D-4 cat.

"We will have to wait until haying and check this year's tonnage to tell the real value of the aeration to the soil," Rice said. "But we can see now on one of our worst meadows that the water is staying in the soil rather than running off as it has done in the past."

The problem of sod packed ground has long been a headache to the Modoc rancher. Years of feeding cattle during the winter on hay meadows and re-use of the meadows without reseedings have compounded the impact. Ranchers have been fertilizing the soils over the past years to help increase the tonnage along with the yearly spring dragging of the meadows to spread the manure left by the cattle. Some ranchers have tried harrowing the meadows but with little success. Rice's theory is that a deeper impregnation of the soil has been the need and he hopes that his new renovator will do the job.

McWhorter points out that the fungus disease is hard to spot in the early stages because it has a long incubation period and definite symptoms may not show up for several months. Nurserymen often do not know that geraniums are infected until the plant is sold and planted in the home garden.

Young geraniums started in OSU greenhouses the previous September were thriving and healthy till early May last year when they developed typical verticillium symptoms.

Home gardeners should watch for: Dying. This is the most likely symptom to look for before buying plants. Nurserymen and buyers should be wary of plants that show these symptoms.

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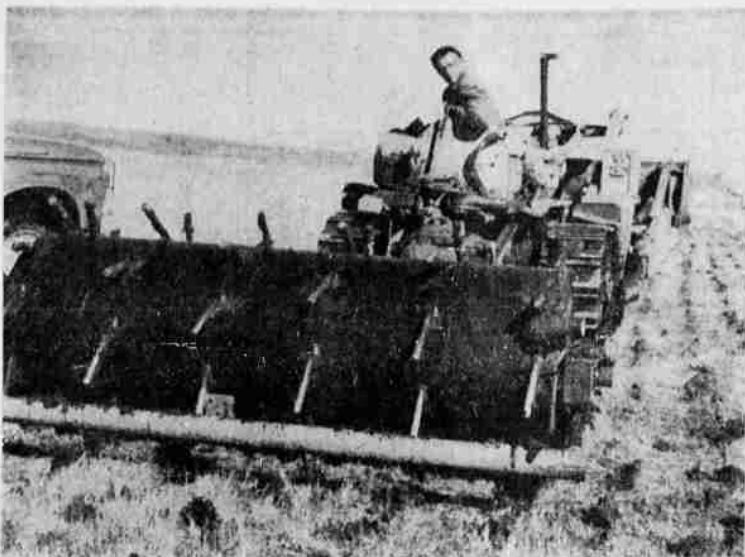
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DEVELOPS CONDITIONER — A new meadow conditioner has been developed by Modoc County rancher Jack Rice to alleviate "sod bound" conditions on his ranch. Here, Wilbur Huntington is shown running the new pasture renovator on the Rice ranch near Altura.

FARM REVIEW FORECAST

PAGE-8 HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon Tuesday, April 30, 1963

Research Shows Verticillium Wilt May Be Common In Geranium Plants

Better take a close look at that geranium in your garden. Recent research at Oregon State University shows that the bane of mint and potato growers—verticillium wilt—may be fairly common in geranium plantings.

Frank P. McWhorter, OSU plant pathologist, has recently pinpointed the disease in geraniums and has alerted florists and home gardeners that verticillium infection can be confused with a common bacterial infection found in these usually dependable plants.

Typical symptoms of geraniums infected with verticillium are the same as those for geraniums suffering from the bacterial disease. One prime difference exists between the two. Bacterial infection—till now thought to be the only serious disease of geraniums—does little or no harm to other plants in the home garden and does not infect the soil.

Verticillium does infect the soil and can damage and eventually destroy other plantings later placed in the same location. Verticillium is a soil fungus which enters plants through their roots, and is widely known as the cause of wilt in potato, tomato, cotton, mint and berry crops. Trees, many kinds of nursery stock, herbaceous and most ornamental composites—especially dahlias—also are hosts for verticillium.

McWhorter points out that the fungus disease is hard to spot in the early stages because it has a long incubation period and definite symptoms may not show up for several months. Nurserymen often do not know that geraniums are infected until the plant is sold and planted in the home garden.

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Estimate On Wheat Surplus Shows Sharp Drop Expected

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Agriculture Department today estimated the wheat carryover, or surplus, on July 1, 1964, will be 1.13 billion bushels, down 55 million bushels from the carryover of July 1, 1963.

If the projected carryover for July 1, 1964, becomes reality, the wheat supply situation will show a reduction for the third successive year.

In a review of the wheat situation, the department said the 1962-63 wheat marketing year, ending June 30, has been highlighted by (1) a small wheat crop 1.09 billion bushels; (2) a high level of exports, now estimated at 615 million bushels; (3) high prices; (4) domestic consumption of 607 million bushels; and (5) the prospect of a further reduction in the carryover.

The ending carryover as of June 30 is expected to total 1.13 billion bushels, with decreases in winter wheat stocks more than offsetting prospective increases in spring wheat stocks.

The right supply of "free" wheat (as opposed to that wheat under price support) is primarily responsible for the prevailing price strength. The most pronounced price rise has been in hard winter wheat. Free supplies probably will continue tight because of the heavy export demand and the reduction in the support rate for new-crop wheat.

The 1963 wheat crop currently is estimated at 1.17 billion bushels, with winter wheat at 927 million bushels and spring wheat put at 240 million. This total crop is somewhat above the small 1962 crop, but below the 1957-61 average.

The 1963 crop won't be enough to meet domestic and export demand. The difference will have to come out of the surplus. The result will be a smaller supply on hand at the beginning of the 1964-65 marketing year.

The department said that on the basis of intentions as of March 1, Canadian farmers plan to seed a total of 27.1 million acres to wheat, only 1 per cent above the 1962 seeding.

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Unightly Stumps Call For Clean-up Activity

Spring clean-up time focuses attention of many Oregon homeowners on badly damaged trees and unsightly stumps in their yards.

These reminders of last fall's Columbus Day storm can be killed inexpensively with weed killers and then removed more easily after the wood decays, reports Michael Newton, Oregon State University forester.

He says that 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T are especially effective when used properly, but warned they can kill nearby plants and trees if not used carefully. Silvex and Ammate also might be used.

These chemicals are readily available at reasonable cost from farm supply stores.

He suggests either of the following two ways to apply the chemicals:

1. Soak the lower foot of the tree or stump with a solution of 1/2 pint of 2,4,5-T ester (or 2,4-D or Silvex) mixed with two gallons diesel fuel. One quart of this solution should be enough to kill a tree 16 inches in diameter, Newton says.

2. Inject undiluted 2,4,5-T amine (or 2,4-D or Silvex) into continuous cuts around the tree as low as possible. For stumps, apply the concentrated amine in a line no more than a quarter of an inch wide around the perimeter of the cut surface of the wood and inner bark.

Additional details are available in an OSU fact sheet called "How To Kill Hardwood Trees and Stumps." Free copies are available to Oregon residents from county extension offices or from the OSU Bulletin Clerk, Corvallis.

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5 Counties Join Forest Tour Plans

Oregon school children will start their 1963 forest conservation tours this month, with five more counties scheduled this year to join the 23 which already offer the program, reports C. B. Ross, Oregon State University extension farm forestry specialist.

Several counties hold tours in April and May, with the remainder scheduled for September and October. Last year, 13,510 students from 230 schools went to outdoor classrooms to learn about such subjects as fire control, soils, tree identification, wildlife, reforestation, forest management and other topics.

A record number of counties and students participated in the 1962 programs, despite the fact that two counties were rained out. Since the tours started in 1956, a total of 53,117 students and 4,491 adults have learned about conservation in this way, Ross said.

The tours are notable examples of cooperation by conservation agencies, the forest industry, tree farmers and individuals, Ross stressed. These groups, contributed 353 man-days last year to make the programs possible. County extension agents act as coordinating officers.

Hood River and Lake counties are joining the list of participants this year, Ross said, and Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties plan a tri-county event for the first time. Lane and Douglas counties are both planning a third tour site for schools not already participating in their programs.

The Portland Area Resources Education Tour, available to more than 8,900 sixth graders in Portland and Multnomah County, is held in Portland's Forest Park. Teachers are trained by natural resource workers at the site and later take their own classes